



News Release

Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
Denver Federal Center Building 67, Room 630 · Denver, CO 80225

August 11, 2011

CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2011

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is now forecast at 80.0 million bushels, up 8.0 million bushels from the July 1 forecast but down 24 percent from the 105.8 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.0 million acres this year with an average yield of 40.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels below the record high 45.0 bushels per acre attained last year. As harvest progressed, producers found higher yields than originally expected. Dry planting conditions last fall combined with dry, early spring growing conditions contributed to lower yield prospects, but timely moisture received from widespread thunderstorms and moderate temperatures led to an above average yield at harvest. **Barley** production is forecast at 8.4 million bushels, up nearly 1 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2011, at 67,000 acres, is also up from last year by 4,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 126.0 bushels per acre, 7.0 bushels below last year, but unchanged from the July 1 forecast.

Corn production is forecasted at 162.5 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year's 182.7 million bushels. The 1.25 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 3 percent greater than a year ago. Average yield is expected to decrease 21.0 bushels per acre from last year to 130.0, due to dry growing conditions and a greater proportion of dryland acreage expected to be harvested for grain. **Sorghum** production in 2011 is forecast at 4.9 million bushels, down 34 percent from the 7.5 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 130,000 acres this year, down from 160,000 acres harvested last year. Dry conditions have lowered yield prospects 9.0 bushels below a year ago as producers expect to average 38.0 bushels per acre this year.

Dry bean production for 2011 is forecast at 627,000 hundredweight, down 50 percent from the 1,254,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 38,000 acres this year, down 28,000 acres from 66,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 832,000 tons, up 1 percent from 823,000 tons produced in 2010. Growers expect to harvest 28,700 acres this year compared with 27,900 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 29.0 tons per acre, down from a record high 29.5 tons per acres a year ago.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 820,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, unchanged from 2010. They also expect to harvest 820,000 acres of **other hay** in 2011, up 40,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.71 million tons compared with 2.87 million tons produced in 2010 and other hay is estimated at 1.15 million tons, down 2 percent from 1.17 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3.3 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.4 tons per acre for other hay.

Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 11.0 million pounds, down from 14.0 million pounds produced last year. Late frosts and hail storms that occurred in the major growing areas reduced expected production.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production, at 2.08 billion bushels, is down 1 percent from the July forecast and down 6 percent from 2010. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month but down 1.2 bushels from last year. Production of **winter wheat** is forecast at 1.50 billion bushels, up slightly from the July 1 forecast and up 1 percent from 2010. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month but down 0.5 bushel from last year. Expected grain area totals 32.3 million acres, up 2 percent from last year but unchanged from last month. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 81 percent complete by July 31, two points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was virtually complete by the end of July in all major Hard Red Winter (HRW) States except Montana and South Dakota, where harvest was 32 and 4 points behind normal, respectively. As the crop lagged behind normal crop development much of the growing season due to cool, wet spring conditions, harvest was just getting underway in Montana by July 31. Yield decreases from last month in the HRW growing areas are expected in the Northern Great Plains. Production of **other spring wheat** is forecast at 522 million bushels, down 5 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 42.5 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from last month but down 3.6 bushels from 2010. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 12.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last month and down 8 percent from last year. Production of **barley** for 2011 is forecast at 168 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast and 7 percent from 2010. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 70.4 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from July but 2.7 bushels below last year's record high. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.39 million acres, is down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 3 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area since 1881.

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Corn production is forecast at 12.9 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the third largest production total on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 153.0 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from 2010, and the fourth highest yield on record. Acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 92.3 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 84.4 million acres, down less than 1 percent from June but up 4 percent from 2010. As of July 31, sixty-two percent of the corn acreage was rated in good to excellent condition in the 18 major producing States, compared with 71 percent rated in these two categories last year at this time. Thirteen of the 18 States reported less acreage rated in good to excellent condition compared with the same time last year, with the largest declines reported in Kansas and Texas due to an extended drought and above normal temperatures. Production of **sorghum** is forecast at 241 million bushels, down 30 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest production since 1956. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 4.39 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 9 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage level since 1936. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 54.8 bushels per acre, down 17 bushels from last year.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 20.5 million cwt for 2011, down 36 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.27 million acres, down 34 percent from the previous year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.19 million acres, down 35 percent from the previous year's harvested acreage. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,718 pounds per acre, a decrease of 8 pounds from 2010. **Soybean** production is forecast at 3.06 billion bushels, down 8 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 73.8 million acres, down less than 1 percent from June and down 4 percent from 2010. Planted area for the Nation is estimated at 75.0 million acres, down fractionally from June.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2011 crop year is forecast at 30.4 million tons, down 5 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.25 million acres, up 1 percent from the June *Acreage* report and up 7 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous estimate and up 5 percent from 2010. Expected yield is forecast at 25.0 tons per acre, a decrease of 2.6 tons from last year.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 65.0 million tons, down 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.36 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield since 2005. Harvested area is forecast at 19.3 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 3 percent from the previous year's acreage. **Other hay** production is forecast at 67.0 million tons, down 14 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1993. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.75 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.3 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 4 percent from last year.

The United States **apple** forecast for the 2011 crop year is 9.51 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last year. Production in the Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) is forecast at 5.88 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year. Washington experienced a cold and wet spring which is expected to keep production below full potential this year. Oregon's production is expected to be below last year mostly due to a hard freeze during pollination.